

# Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions



The circular economy is high on the EU policy-making agenda. It is increasingly recognised as both a necessity and an opportunity, offering long-lasting economic, environmental and social benefits. The Pan-European cooperation programmes ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT have produced a policy brief and organised this workshop to contribute to the debate and to outline their offer of support to cities and regions looking to make progress with the circular economy. An expert panel discussed the steps needed to transform the economies of cities and regions into circular economies, taking into account the wide territorial diversity across Europe. To begin with, cities and regions need data on their territorial context, although data mapping of circular economy performance is often lacking. To address this, ESPON will soon launch a call for Targeted Analyses, offering a chance to gather evidence on the circular economy to improve policy making. Traditionally, the circular economy debate emphasises waste management. However, the circular economy also encompasses issues like social innovation, the sharing economy and the repair and re-use of materials. Cities and regions

have a crucial role to play at all stages of a product's life-cycle, be it through their purchasing power or in setting-up framework conditions and networking opportunities. Global production chains remain a challenge, but cities and regions can use public procurement to foster green products. The workshop highlighted the circular economy experience and good practice of the City of Stockholm which has embedded circular approaches in sustainable urban developments, and of the Malopolska region, which is cooperating with other EU regions on industrial symbiosis. The key message of the workshop was that cooperation is a powerful tool to help cities and regions to make progress along their path to a circular economy, be it through European Territorial Cooperation programmes or by financing cooperation under Article 96(3)(d) of the CPR. Many examples of good practice are available to provide inspiration, including those found in the Interact KEEP database. URBACT will launch a call for good practice in December 2016, followed by a call for transfer networks in mid-2017. Interreg Europe's Policy Learning Platform on Environment and Resource Efficiency will offer networking

opportunities for policy makers, organise thematic events, and provide targeted support for

policymakers in order to improve their policies connected to circular economy.

Presentations ([http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/presentations\\_frame.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/presentations_frame.cfm))

Webstreaming ([http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/webstreaming.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/webstreaming.cfm))



Sustainable growth

Workshop code

12A61

Workshop day/time

October 12 , 09:00 - 10:45

Organiser(s)

ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe, URBACT

Moderator

**Eilish O'Loughlin**, Policy Officer, Interreg Europe, France

Speakers

**Kai Böhme**, Director, Lead Partner, ESPON project on territorial futures, Spatial Foresight GmbH, Luxembourg

**Tamás Kállay**, Expert, Regional Environmental Center; Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform , Hungary

**Ania Rok**, Programme Expert, URBACT, France

**Jean-Benoit Bel**, Project Manager, Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+), Belgium

**Ivana Lazic**, Project Manager, Interact, Austria

**Lisa Enarsson**, Coordination Team, City of Stockholm, Sweden

**Michal Preisner**, Referent, Malopolska Region, Poland

Links

ESPON (<https://www.espon.eu/main/>)

Interact (<http://www.interact-eu.net/>)

Interreg Europe (<http://www.interregeurope.eu/>)

URBACT (<http://www.urbact.eu/>)

Policy brief 'Pathways to a circular economy'

([http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Policy\\_brief\\_on\\_Circular\\_economy.pdf](http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Policy_brief_on_Circular_economy.pdf))

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(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/euwrc/sets/72157675007612596/with/30161153172/>)

More videos (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhUJ26iqpEfb-i274Xz1Y4WDb3WwQUjoc>)

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